

FORM PTO-1390 (Modified)
(REV 11-98)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

3094-38

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 1.5)

10/070600

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/JP00/05928INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
August 31, 2000PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
August 31, 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION

RELEASING LAMINATED FILM

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Yoshihiko NISHIO and Takanobu SUZUKI

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))
 - a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).
8. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
9. ☒ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
10. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
11. ☒ A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).
12. ☒ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).

Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

13. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
14. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
16. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
17. ☐ A substitute specification.
18. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
19. ☒ Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail
20. ☐ Other items or information:

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 1.5) 10/070600	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP00/05928	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 3094-38
---	--	--

21. The following fees are submitted.				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) :					
<input type="checkbox"/> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$970.00					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$840.00					
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$690.00					
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$670.00					
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$96.00					
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				\$890.00	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)).				\$0.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	23 - 20 =	3	x \$18.00	\$54.00	
Independent claims	2 - 3 =	0	x \$78.00	\$0.00	
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable).				<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.00
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS				=	\$890.00
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28) (check if applicable).				<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.00
SUBTOTAL				=	\$944.00
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)).				+	\$0.00
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE				=	\$944.00
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable).				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$40.00
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED				=	\$984.00
				Amount to be: refunded	\$
				charged	\$

☒ A check in the amount of \$984.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.

☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ to cover the above fees.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **50-1145** A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Gerald Levy
Pitney, Hardin, Kipp & Szuch LLP
685 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017-4024
(212)297-5800



29540

PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Ronald E. Brown
SIGNATURE

Ronald E. Brown


NAME

32,200

REGISTRATION NUMBER

February 28, 2002

DATE

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" (37 CFR 1.10) Applicant(s): Yoshihiko NISHIO and Takanobu SUZUKI			Docket No. 3094-38	
Serial No. 10/070600	Filing Date HEREWITH	Examiner N/A		Group Art Unit N/A
Invention: RELEASING LAMINATED FILM				
<p>I hereby certify that the following correspondence:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>national phase application, declaration, assignment, copy of Request, copy of WO 01/15896; amendments to the claims; PCT/IPEA/409; preliminary amendment and a check for \$930.00</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Identify type of correspondence)</i></p> <p>is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: The Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <u>February 28, 2002</u> <i>(Date)</i> </p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>Michelle Hennessy <i>(Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)</i></p> <p> <i>(Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)</i></p> <p>ET128297462US <i>("Express Mail" Mailing Label Number)</i></p> </div>				
<p>Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.</p>				

3094-38

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yoshihiko NISHIO and Takanobu SUZUKI

Serial No.: N/A

Filed: Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

For: **RELEASING LAMINATED FILM**

Examiner: N/A

Pitney, Hardin, Kipp & Szuch LLP
685 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10017
(212) 297-5800

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R:

Prior to any action in the above referenced application, kindly amend the above captioned application as follows:

844212A01022702

Attorney Docket # 3094-38
Express Mail # ET128297462US

Please rewrite claims 4 – 7 and 10 - 15 as follows:

4. (Amended). The releasing laminated film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said tensile modulus of elasticity in a traverse direction is a range of from 2,940 to 5,880 N/mm².
5. (Amended). The releasing laminated film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the fluoro-resin is tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene copolymer resin and the film comprising the fluoro-resin has a thickness of 1 to 50 μm .
6. (Amended). The releasing laminated film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the supporting film has a melting point of 100°C or higher.
7. (Amended). The releasing laminated film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the supporting film is a polyester film having a thickness of 5 to 1,000 μm .
10. (Amended). The carrier film according to claim 8, wherein the drawn polyester film is a polyethylene terephthalate film having a thickness to 5 to 1,000 μm .
11. (Amended). The carrier film according to claim 8, wherein the film comprising a fluoro-resin is a tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene copolymer film having a thickness of 2 to 10 μm .
12. (Amended). The film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the film comprising a fluoro-resin is dry laminated on the supporting film.

13. (Amended). The film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a polyethylene film, polypropylene film, or polyester film is further laminated on the film comprising a fluoro resin.

14. (Amended). The film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the film has a total thickness of 10 to 300 μm .

15. (Amended) The film according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the film has a total thickness of 60 to 300 μm .

Remarks

The present amendment is filed with the above captioned application for purposes of correcting the multiple dependencies and to reduce the number of claims for purposes of determining the filing fee. Marked up versions of the amended claims are included in an Appendix attached hereto.

An early action on the merits is now respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald E. Brown", with a stylized flourish at the end.

RONALD E. BROWN
Reg. No. 32,200 for:
GERALD LEVY
Reg. No. 24,419

APPENDIX

4. (Amended). The releasing laminated film according to [claim 2 or 3] claim 1 or 2, wherein said tensile modulus of elasticity in a traverse direction is a range of from 2,940 to 5,880 N/mm².
5. (Amended). The releasing laminated film according to [any one of claims 2 to 4] claim 1 or 2, wherein the fluoro-resin is tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene copolymer resin and the film comprising the fluoro-resin has a thickness of 1 to 50 μm .
6. (Amended). The releasing laminated film according to [any one of claims 2 to 5] claim 1 or 2, wherein the supporting film has a melting point of 100°C or higher.
7. (Amended). The releasing laminated film according to [any one of claims 2 to 6] claim 1 or 2, wherein the supporting film is a polyester film having a thickness of 5 to 1,000 μm .
10. (Amended). The carrier film according to claim 8 [or 9], wherein the drawn polyester film is a polyethylene terephthalate film having a thickness to 5 to 1,000 μm .
11. (Amended). The carrier film according to [any one of claims 8 to 10] claim 8, wherein the film comprising a fluoro-resin is a tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene copolymer film having a thickness of 2 to 10 μm .

12. (Amended). The film according to [any one of claims 2 to 11] claim 1 or 2, wherein the film comprising a fluororesin is dry laminated on the supporting film.

13. (Amended). The film according to [any one of claims 2 to 12] claim 1 or 2, wherein a polyethylene film, polypropylene film, or polyester film is further laminated on the film comprising a fluororesin.

14. (Amended). The film according to [any one of claims 2 to 13] claim 1 or 2, wherein the film has a total thickness of 10 to 300 μm .

15. (Amended) The film according to [any one of claims 2 to 14] claim 1 or 2, wherein the film has a total thickness of 60 to 300 μm .

RELEASING LAMINATED FILM

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a laminated film having a releasing property, specifically to a releasing film suitable for manufacturing a multilayered printed circuit board and to a carrier film for manufacturing a coating film.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

A releasing laminated film is used as a releasing film for making multilayered printed circuit boards or for embossing leather grains on synthetic leather. It is also used as a carrier film for producing a coating film, or as a protective film for protecting a tacky or adhesive film from dusts, which protective film is peeled from the tacky or adhesive film immediately before using them.

A multilayered printed circuit board is produced by stacking a plurality of printed circuit boards with preregs inserted therebetween, and sandwiching the deck of circuit boards thus obtained with releasing films and, then, hot pressing the deck to melt the preregs, followed by hardening the preregs to integrate the deck. As the releasing film, a fluororesin film is used, for example, poly(vinyl fluoride) film at a temperature of 175°C or lower, tetrafluoroethylene-hexafluoropropylene copolymer (FEP), or tetrafluoroethylene-perfluorodimethylvinylether copolymer (PFA) at a temperature higher than 175°C.

There is such a problem concerning printed circuit boards having blind through-holes that a portion of molten preregs bleeds out through openings of the through-holes of the topmost board upon hot-pressed and hardens on copper foil to thereby prevent the copper foil to be etched off, so that an accurate circuit may not be formed

on the circuit board surface. To solve this problem, a thicker releasing film having a thickness of 0.06 to 0.3 mm than conventional films is used as described in Japanese Patent Application Laid-open H5-283862. However, such a thick film of the aforesaid fluororesin
5 such as poly(vinyl fluoride) is generally expensive to raise production costs, which offsets an effect of decrease in a defection rate of the printed circuit boards. In addition, the fluororesin films such as poly(vinyl fluoride) film inherently have low stiffness or lack firmness.

10 Another problem with the conventional films is that they have poor handling property when placed on the printed circuit boards.

In addition, if there is a foreign body between a hot press plate or an embossing role and a releasing film when pressure is applied, a shape of the foreign body is transferred to cause a dent or mark
15 on a circuit board surface through the releasing film due to the film's insufficient firmness. Such a dent may cause an inaccuracy in a circuit or embossed pattern.

Moreover, conventional releasing films are difficult to peel off from a press plate. A portion of the film sticks and remains on the
20 press plate to obstruct successive production of circuit boards.

Thus, an object of the present invention is to provide a releasing film without the aforesaid problems.

The present invention also provides a carrier film for a coating film. The carrier film is used as a supporting film to make the coating
25 film. To form a coating film with a uniform thickness, the carrier film must have a uniform thickness, too. After a coating film is formed by casting a resin on the carrier film, the carrier film is peeled from the coating film. Therefore, the carrier film is required to have a good releasing property. As the carrier film, a fluororesin
30 film or biaxially drawn polyethylene terephthalate (PET) film with

a silicone compound coated thereon is hitherto mainly used.

However, as mentioned above, a fluororesin is generally expensive. Therefore, a film thereof is preferably thin from an economical viewpoint, but at the same time it should not be too thin to have poor handling property. A fluororesin film thick enough to have a satisfactory handling property tends to have poor precision of thickness. This causes a problem that thickness of a coating film formed on the fluororesin film is not uniform.

Further, the fluororesin has poor mechanical strength such as tensile strength and may be torn when stretched in a coating process line. Meanwhile, a PET film coated with a silicon compound has a disadvantage that a coating film formed thereon is contaminated with the silicone compound.

Thus, an object of the present invention is to provide a carrier film for a coating film without the aforesaid problems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a releasing laminated film comprising a supporting film having a tensile modulus of elasticity in a traverse direction measured according to ASTM D882 of 980 to 6,860 N/mm² and at least one film comprising a fluororesin laminated on at least one side of the supporting film.

Further, the present invention is a releasing laminated film comprising a supporting film having a tensile modulus of elasticity in a traverse direction measured according to ASTM D882 of 980 to 6,860 N/mm² and a film comprising a fluororesin laminated on one side of the supporting film, the other side of the supporting film having a 10-point averaged surface roughness (Rz) of 3.0 to 8.0 μ m and the number of peaks (Pc) of 200 to 400 measured according to JIS B0 601.

Preferably, said Rz is 4.0 to 7.0 μ m and said Pc is 250 to 350.

Preferably, said tensile modulus of elasticity in a traverse direction is in a range of from 2,940 to 5,880 N/mm².

In the preferred embodiments, the fluoro-resin is tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene copolymer resin and the film comprising the fluoro-resin has a thickness of 1 to 50 μm; the supporting film has a melting point of 110°C or higher; and the supporting film is a polyester film having a thickness of 5 to 1,000 μm.

The present invention also provides a laminated carrier film comprising a drawn polyester film and a film comprising a fluoro-resin laminated on at least one side of the drawn polyester film, the carrier film having a difference between a maximum thickness and a minimum thickness (R) of 5 μm or smaller, wherein R is measured along a 10 cm-long line starting at an arbitrary point on a surface of the laminated film with a continuous-mode thickness meter provided with a tip having a diameter of 5 mm.

In the preferred embodiments, said R is 3 μm or smaller; the drawn polyester film is a polyethylene terephthalate film having a thickness of 5 to 1000 μm; and the film comprising a fluoro-resin is a tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene copolymer film having a thickness of 2 to 10 μm.

In the films described above, it is preferred that the film comprising a fluoro-resin is dry laminated on the supporting film.

Preferably, in the films described above, a polyethylene film, polypropylene film, or polyester film is further laminated on the film comprising a fluoro-resin.

Preferably, the film described above has a total thickness of 10 to 300 μm, more preferably 60 to 300 μm.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

As the supporting film used in the present releasing film, any

known films can be used. Examples of such include films of polyester, polycarbonate, triacetylcellulose, cellophane, polyamide, aromatic polyamide, polyimide, polyetherimide, polyphenylenesulfide, polysulfone, polyethersulfone, polypropylene, and high density
5 polyethylene. Among these, a polyethylene film is preferred in terms of thermal property, mechanical properties, and price.

The supporting film has a tensile modulus of elasticity in a traverse direction, i.e., a direction perpendicular to a machine direction (film stream direction) of 980 to 6,860 N/mm², preferably
10 2,940 to 5,880 N/mm², more preferably 3,430 to 5,390 N/mm². If the tensile modulus of elasticity is below the aforesaid lower limit, the releasing film has a worse handling property. For example, the film creases in handling. On the other hand, the releasing film is too hard to handle, if the tensile modulus of elasticity exceeds
15 the aforesaid upper limit.

The present invention relates also to a releasing film comprising a supporting film and a fluororesin film laminated thereon, wherein the supporting film surface opposite to the surface laminated with the fluororesin film has a 10-points averaged surface roughness (Rz)
20 of 3.0 μ m to 8.0 μ m and the number of peaks (Pc) of 200 to 400, both measured by a tracer method according to the Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS) B0 601. If Rz is smaller than 3.0 μ m or Pc is smaller than 200, the film adheres to a press plate too well and is not easily peeled from the press plate. Preferably, Rz is in a range of from
25 4.0 μ m to 7.0 μ m and Pc is in a range of from 250 to 350.

The aforesaid surface roughness can be attained by treating a surface of the supporting film by sand matting, incorporating a filler in the film, or chemical matting.

In the releasing film used for a multilayered printed circuit board,
30 or an emboss role, the supporting film preferably has a melting point

of 110°C or higher, more preferably 200 °C or higher. If the melting point is below 110°C, heat resistance of the releasing film is so low as to cause the releasing film to adhere to a press plate.

The supporting film has a thickness of 5 to 1,000 μm, preferably 12.5 to 300 μm, more preferably 25 to 100 μm. If the thickness is smaller than the aforesaid lower limit, dents or bleedout tends to occur. If the thickness is larger than the aforesaid upper limit, precision of the thickness of a laminated film is lower, so that pressure may not be uniformly applied in the pressing. Further, manufacturing costs and the amount of waste are larger.

In the present releasing film, use may be made of a fluororesin such as, poly(tetrafluoroethylene) (PTFE), tetrafluoroethylene-perfluorovinylether copolymer (PFA), tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene copolymer (ETFE), tetrafluoroethylene-hexafluoropropylene copolymer (FEP), poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene) (CTFE), and poly(vinylidene fluoride) (VdF). When a pressing temperature is 175°C or lower, VdF is preferred. When a pressing temperature is higher than 175°C, FEP and PFA are preferred.

The fluororesin film has a thickness of 1 to 50 μm, preferably 2 to 30 μm, most preferably 3 to 20 μm.

The present invention relates also to a carrier film for manufacturing a coating film. The carrier film has such a thickness that a difference between a maximum thickness and a minimum thickness (R) is 5 μm or smaller, measured along a 10 cm -long line starting at an arbitrary point on a surface of the film with a continuous-mode thickness meter provided with a tip having a diameter of 5 mm. The film having such good precision of thickness allows one to produce a coating film having a uniform thickness. Preferably, R is 3 μm or smaller.

Generally, it is difficult to attain R of 5 μm or smaller in a

fluororesin film. On the contrary, a drawn polyester film usually has R of 1 to 2 μ m. By laminating a thin fluororesin film on a polyester film having a good precision of thickness, the present invention provides a carrier film having good precision of thickness, economical efficiency and handling property.

As the polyester film used in the present carrier film, any known films can be used. Examples of such include films of polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene naphthalate, polyethylene isophthalate, and polybutylene terephthalate. Among these, polyethylene terephthalate is preferred because of its good precision of thickness, thermal property, mechanical properties, and lower price.

The polyester film has a thickness of 5 to 300 μ m, preferably 25 to 100 μ m. If the thickness is smaller than the aforesaid lower limit, handling property of the carrier film is worse. If it is larger than the aforesaid upper limit, thickness precision of the polyester film is too low to make a carrier film having desired precision of thickness and, in addition, manufacturing costs and the amount of waste may increase.

As the fluororesin used in the present carrier film, any one of the aforementioned fluororesins to be used for the present releasing film can be used. The fluororesin film preferably has a thickness of 2 to 10 μ m, more preferably 3 to 5 μ m.

The present releasing films and the carrier film preferably have a total thickness of 10 to 400 μ m, particularly 60 to 300 μ m.

The present releasing film may be prepared by dry laminating the fluororesin film on one side of the supporting film. As an adhesive for dry laminating, use may be made of acryl-modified adhesives, isocyanate adhesives, polyethylene imine adhesives, polyurethane adhesives, or silane coupling agents. Among these, polyurethane adhesives for dry laminating are preferred. Preferably, the surface

of the supporting film and the surface of the fluororesin film are treated by corona discharge prior to the dry laminating. To prepare the thin fluororesin film, the fluororesin may be co-extruded together with a polyolefin resin, or may be extruded on a transfer film and wound together. After dry laminating the thin fluororesin film on the polyester film, the co-extruded polyolefine film or the transfer film may be peeled off.

Preferably, a protective film layer, e.g., polyethylene film, is provided on the fluororesin film surface opposite to the surface laminated with the supporting film. By peeling the protective film immediately before placing the carrier film on a metal base plate, one can keep dust away to provide a coating film with higher thickness precision. As the protective film, any film which can stick to the fluororesin film may be used. Examples of such include films of various types of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, poly(vinyl chloride), triacetylcellulose, cellophane, polyamide, polycarbonate, aromatic polyamide, polyimide, polyetherimide, polyphenylenesulfide, polysulfone, and polyethersulfone. Among these, a high density polyethylene film is preferred because of its lower price. The protective film preferably has a thickness of 10 to 50 μm . The protective film may be laminated on the fluororesin film by hot pressing.

EXAMPLES

25 A. Releasing film (1)

Films and preregs used

Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) films: ex Mitsubishi Chemical Co., 25 μm thick or 95 μm thick, both having a tensile modulus of elasticity in the traverse direction of 5000 N/mm².

30 Tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene copolymer (ETFE) films: a 5 μm thick

film was produced from an ETFE resin of Asahi Glass Co.; 12.5 μ m thick ready-made film, ex Asahi Glass Co.; and 100 μ m thick ready-made film, ex Asahi Glass Co.

5 High density polyethylene (HDPE) film: 15 μ m thick, ex Mitsubishi Chemical Polyester Co.

Prepreg: epoxy resin-impregnated glass cloth, ex Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Co.

Methods for evaluation

1. Dents

10 Several pieces of a 5 μ m-cube glass dust were placed between a releasing film and a press plate, and hot pressing was carried out. Then, the releasing film was peeled off from a surface of a circuit board, which surface was then visually observed for dents. When no dent was observed, the releasing film was rated as double circle
15 ◎; when slightly observed, ○; and when clearly observed, ×.

2. Bleedout of Prepreg

After hot pressing, a releasing film was peeled off and the area surrounding blind through-holes was visually observed. When bleedout was not observed at all, the releasing film was rated as
20 ○; and when observed, ×.

3. Handling Property

A releasing film which could be easily set on a circuit board without creasing was rated as ◎; with creasing a little, ○; and a film which was difficult to handle to be creased, ×.

25 4. Costs

Roughly estimated production cost of each film is as shown in Table 1, relative to that of the film of Comparative Example A-1 taken as 100.

5. Releasing property

30 A releasing film was placed on a circuit board. The film that could

be easily peeled off by hand was rated as O; and not peeled off by hand, X.

Examples A-1 to A-3 and Comparative Examples A-1 to A-3

- 5 Releasing films were prepared by dry laminating each fluororesin film shown in Table 1 on a polyester film. In Example A-2, a protective film made of HDPE was further laminated by heat pressing on the fluororesin film. Two printed circuit boards having blind through-holes were stacked, sandwiching a prepreg between the boards.
- 10 A releasing film was placed on the top of the deck of the printed circuit boards, and another film at the bottom. A few pieces of about 5 μ m-cube glass dust taken from an epoxy resin-impregnated glass cloth were placed at a center part of the upper releasing film. Then, the deck of the printed circuit boards was hot pressed at 170°C
- 15 and 50kgf/cm² for 60 minutes to melt and harden the prepreg to integrate the deck of the printed circuit boards. In Example A-2, the protective film of the releasing film was peeled off before placing the releasing film on the printed circuit board.

- In Comparative Example A-3, a polyester film coated with silicone
- 20 was used.

The results of the valuation are as shown in Table 1.

Table 1

	Film Structure	Dent	Bleedout	Handling Property	Production Cost	Releasing Property
Example A-1	PET (95 μ m) / ETFE (5 μ m)	⊙	○	⊙	30	○
Example A-2	PET (95 μ m) / ETFE (5 μ m) / HDPE (15 μ m)	⊙	○	⊙	45	○
Example A-3	PET (25 μ m) / ETFE (5 μ m)	○	x	○	20	○
Comparative Example A-1	ETFE (100 μ m)	○	○	x	100	○
Comparative Example A-2	ETFE (12.5 μ m)	x	x	x	15	○
Comparative Example A-3	PET (95 μ m) / silicone coating	○	○	⊙	10	x

The films of Example A-1 and A-2 are superior to that of Comparative Example A-1 in that they caused no dents, had better handling property and lower production costs. The film of Example A-3 showed bleedout, but had good handling property enough to be used as a protective film for an adhesive film. On the other hand, the films of Comparative Example 1 and Comparative Example 2 had worse handling property and were difficult to set on the printed circuit boards.

B. Releasing film (2)

10 Films and prepregs used

Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) film: ex Mitsubishi Chemical Co., 50 μ m thick, having tensile modulus of elasticity in the traverse direction of 5000 N/mm².

15 Tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene copolymer (ETFE) film: 5 μ m thick, made of an ETFE resin of Asahi Glass Co.

Prepreg: epoxy resin-impregnated glass cloth, ex Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Co.

Measurement of Surface Roughness

20 Surface roughness was measured according to JIS B0 601 with a surface roughness tester, SE-3 FK, ex Kosaka Laboratory Ltd., provided with a tip with a radius of 2 μ m, under a 70 mg load.

Preparation of Releasing Laminated Films

25 One surface of the PET film was provided with embossed pattern by sand blasting so as to have a surface roughness shown in Table 2. Then, on the surface opposite to the sand blasted surface, the ETFE film was dry laminated to prepare the laminated films shown in Table 2.

30 Two printed circuit boards having blind through-holes were stacked,

sandwiching a prepreg between the boards. A releasing film was placed on the top of the deck of the printed circuit boards, and another film at the bottom. The deck of the printed circuit boards thus sandwiched between the releasing films was hot pressed with
5 a mirror-finished press plate at 170°C and 490 N/cm² to melt and harden the Prepreg to integrate the deck. After 60 minutes, the pressure was released to take out the integrated circuit board. The following evaluation was carried out. The results are as shown in Table 3.

(1) Peeling-off of the Releasing film from the Press Plate

10 The releasing film which was peeled off from the press plate without leaving any portion of the film stuck to the press plate was rated as O; one which could be peeled with a portion remaining stuck to the press plate, Δ; and one which was difficult to peel off, leaving more than about a half of it stuck to the press plate, X.

15 (2) Transfer of the Embossed Pattern of the Supporting Film to the Circuit Board

After peeling the releasing film from a printed circuit board, the surface of the printed circuit board was examined whether the embossed pattern of the releasing film was transferred there or not.

Table 2

	Film Structure	Rz(μ m)	Pc(counts)
Example B-1	PET (50 μ m) / ETFE(5 μ m)	4.5	320
Example B-2	"	3.0	400
Reference Example B-1	"	4.5	170
Reference Example B-2	"	2.0	400
Reference Example B-3	"	15.0	200
Reference Example B-4	"	0.7	25

Table 3

	Release from Press Plate	Transfer
Example B-1	○	No
Example B-2	○	No
Reference Example B-1	△	No
Reference Example B-2	△	No
Reference Example B-3	△	Yes
Reference Example B-4	x	No

All of the films of the present invention were peeled off well from the printed circuit board. On the other hand, the films of Reference Examples B-1 to B-3 were worse in the releasing property than the films of the present invention.

5

C. Carrier Film

Films Used

Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) films: ex Mitsubishi Chemical Co., 50 μ m thick or 100 μ m thick, both having a tensile modulus of elasticity in the traverse direction of 5000 N/mm².

10

Tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene copolymer (ETFE) films : 3 μ m thick made of a ETFE resin of Asahi Glass Co.; 50 μ m thick ready-made film, ex Asahi Glass Co.; and 100 μ m thick ready-made film, ex Asahi Glass Co.

15

Silicon coated PET film: MRE (trade mark, silicone coated type), 50 μ m thick, ex Mitsubishi Chemical Polyester Film Co.

Thickness Difference R Measurement

Thickness difference of a film was determined by continuously measuring thickness of the film over 10 cm along the machine direction with a FILM THICKNESS TESTER, ex Anritsu Co., provided with tip of 5 mm in diameter. The measurement was repeated at 10 locations at intervals of 1 centimeter along a direction perpendicular to the machine direction and the results were averaged. Thickness in a direction perpendicular to the machine direction was also measured over 10 cm in a similar manner as described above and the results were averaged.

25

Preparation of Carrier Films

30

The carrier films shown in Table 4 were prepared by dry laminating

an ETFE film on a PET film.

(1) Each carrier film was measured for R. The carrier film having R of $5\mu\text{m}$ or smaller was rated as \bigcirc ; and one having R greater than $5\mu\text{m}$, \times .

5 (2) A $30\mu\text{m}$ thick coating film of a polyimide resin was formed on each carrier film and the following evaluation was made according to the following criteria for handling property in the casting of polyimide, releasing property after forming the coating film, R of the coating film, and contamination on the coating film surface.

10 The results are as shown in Table 4.

a. Handling Property

The carrier film which was easy to handle without creasing was rated as \bigcirc ; one showed a few creases, Δ ; and one which was creasy and difficult to handle, \times .

15 b. Releasing Property

The carrier film which could be easily peeled off by hand was rated as \bigcirc .

c. Thickness Difference (R) of the Coating Film

20 Each coating film was measured for R. The one having R of $5\mu\text{m}$ or smaller was rated as \bigcirc ; and one having a R greater than $5\mu\text{m}$, \times .

d. Contamination on the Coating Film Surface

The surface of the coating film was visually observed for contamination. When contamination is found, the carrier film was rated as \times ; and when not found, \bigcirc .

Table 4

	Film Structure	R	Handling Property	Releasing Property	R of Coating Film	Contamination on Coating Film
Example C-1	PET (50 μ m) / ETFE (3 μ m)	O	O	O	O	O
Example C-2	PET (100 μ m) / ETFE (3 μ m)	O	O	O	O	O
Comparative Example C-1	ETFE (50 μ m)	x	x	O	x	O
Comparative Example C-2	ETFE (100 μ m)	x	Δ	O	x	O
Comparative Example C-3	silicon coated PET (50 μ m)	O	O	O	O	x

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The present releasing laminated film has a good handling property, and is capable of preventing bleedout of a molten prepreg and
5 occurrence of dents in the production of multilayered circuit boards.

The present releasing laminated film is well peeled off not only from a prepreg but also from a press plate.

The present carrier film has a good handling property, and releasing
property. By using the carrier film, a coating film can be formed
10 with a good thickness precision and without contamination.

Claims:

1. A releasing laminated film comprising a supporting film having a tensile modulus of elasticity in a traverse direction measured according to ASTM D882 of 980 to 6,860 N/mm² and at least one film
5 comprising a fluororesin laminated on at least one side of the supporting film.
2. A releasing laminated film comprising a supporting film having a tensile modulus of elasticity in a traverse direction measured according to ASTM D882 of 980 to 6,860 N/mm² and a film comprising
10 a fluororesin laminated on one side of the supporting film, the other side of the supporting film having a 10-point averaged surface roughness (Rz) of 3.0 to 8.0 μ m and the number of peaks (Pc) of 200 to 400, both measured according to JIS B0 601.
3. The releasing laminated film according to claim 2, wherein Rz
15 is 4.0 to 7.0 μ m and Pc is 250 to 350.
4. The releasing laminated film according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said tensile modulus of elasticity in a traverse direction is in a range of from 2,940 to 5,880 N/mm².
5. The releasing laminated film according to any one of claims 1
20 to 4, wherein the fluororesin is tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene copolymer resin and the film comprising the fluororesin has a thickness of 1 to 50 μ m.
6. The releasing laminated film according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the supporting film has a melting point of 110°C or
25 higher.
7. The releasing laminated film according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the supporting film is a polyester film having a thickness of 5 to 1,000 μ m.
8. A laminated carrier film comprising a drawn polyester film and
30 a film comprising a fluororesin laminated on at least one side of

- the drawn polyester film, the carrier film having a difference between a maximum thickness and a minimum thickness (R) of $5\mu\text{m}$ or smaller, wherein R is measured along a 10 cm-long line starting at an arbitrary point on a surface of the laminated film with a continuous-mode thickness meter provided with a tip having a diameter of 5 mm.
- 5 9. The carrier film according to claim 8, wherein R is $3\mu\text{m}$ or smaller.
10. The carrier film according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the drawn polyester film is a polyethylene terephthalate film having a thickness of 5 to $1000\mu\text{m}$.
- 10 11. The carrier film according to any one of claims 8 to 10, wherein the film comprising a fluororesin is a tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene copolymer film having a thickness of 2 to $10\mu\text{m}$.
12. The film according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the film comprising a fluororesin is dry laminated on the supporting
- 15 film.
13. The film according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein a polyethylene film, polypropylene film, or polyester film is further laminated on the film comprising a fluororesin.
14. The film according to any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the
- 20 film has a total thickness of 10 to $300\mu\text{m}$.
15. The film according to any one of claims 1 to 14, wherein the film has a total thickness of 60 to $300\mu\text{m}$.

ABSTRACT

A releasing laminated film is provided, which film comprises a supporting film having a tensile modulus of elasticity in a traverse direction measured according to ASTM D882 of 980 to 6,860 N/mm² and at least one film comprising a fluoro-resin laminated on at least one side of the supporting film. The releasing film is suitably used for producing a multilayered printed circuit board and a coating film.

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
TO BE FILED WITH U.S. DESIGNATED OFFICE UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)**

As a below named inventor(s), I (We) hereby declare that:

My (Our) residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my (our) name(s). I (We) believe I (we) am (are) the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

RELEASING LAMINATED FILM, the specification of which is attached hereto and:

☒ filed on August 31, 2000 PCT International

Application Number PCT/JP00/05928

and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I (We) hereby state that I (we) have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I (We) acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)			
NUMBER	COUNTRY	DATE FILED	PRIORITY CLAIMED
11/246662	Japan	August 31, 1999	XX YES NO
2000/260208	Japan	August 30, 2000	XX YES NO
2000/260209	Japan	August 30, 2000	XX YES NO

I (We) hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

--	--	--

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	STATUS PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED

I (We) hereby declare that all statements made herein of my (our) own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I (We) hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Gerald Levy, Registration No. 24,419; Ronald E. Brown, Registration No. 32,200; Marta Delsignore, Registration No. 32,689; John Gulbin, Registration No. 33,180; Lindsay S. Adams, Registration No. 36,425; and Michael P. Stanley, Reg. No. 47,108. *I (We) further authorize my (our) attorney to insert the proper serial number and filing date awarded to my (our) application on this document, above my (our) signature(s).

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: Gerald Levy, Esq.

PITNEY, HARDIN, KIPP & SZUCH LLP

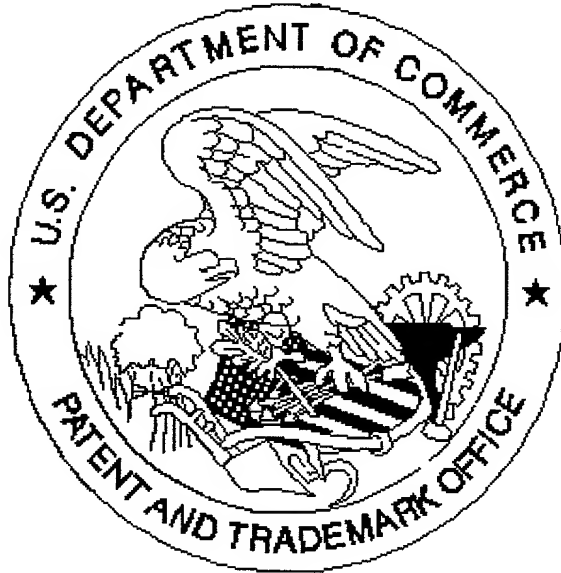
685 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10017-4024

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO: Gerald Levy

(212) 297-5800

FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR <u>Yoshihiko NISHIO</u>		CITIZENSHIP <u>Japan</u>
INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE <u>Yoshihiko Nishio</u>		DATE <u>Feb. 25, 2002</u>
RESIDENCE <u>Shiga, Japan</u> <u>JPX</u>		
POST OFFICE ADDRESS <u>c/o Mitsubishi Plastics, Inc., Nagahama Plant, 5-8, Mitsuya-cho, Nagahama-shi,</u> <u>Shiga 526-8660, Japan</u>		
FULL NAME OF SECOND JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY <u>Takanobu SUZUKI</u>		CITIZENSHIP <u>Japan</u>
INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE <u>Takanobu Suzuki</u>		DATE <u>Feb. 25, 2002</u>
RESIDENCE <u>Shiga, Japan</u> <u>JPX</u>		
POST OFFICE ADDRESS <u>c/o Mitsubishi Plastics, Inc., Nagahama Plant, 5-8, Mitsuya-cho, Nagahama-shi,</u> <u>Shiga 526-8660, Japan</u>		
FULL NAME OF THIRD JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY		CITIZENSHIP

United States Patent & Trademark Office
Office of Initial Patent Examination -- Scanning Division



Application deficiencies found during scanning:

☐ Page(s) _____ of _____ were not present
for scanning. (Document title)

☐ Page(s) _____ of _____ were not present
for scanning. (Document title)

☐ *Scanned copy is best available. black line on all pages*